

Notes on the Occurrence of Gulls at Utah Lake

While studying the flight activities of the Ring-billed Gull at the mouth of Provo River at Utah Lake on February 27, 1942, I noticed a large gull flying in company with the Ring-billed Gull. At first I thought it was a California Gull. As the bird came closer I decided to collect it for further identification. The bird proved to be a new record for Utah Lake and its environs. It was the Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*.

With the addition of the Herring Gull to other records of gulls, we now have six species resident, at or near Utah Lake.

It is felt that the occurrence of these species is deserving of notation and I am pleased to record the following information concerning the six species of gulls from Utah Lake.

The California gull, *Larus californicus*, has been a resident of the state of Utah for a great number of years. The earliest records of explorers and pioneers to Utah report the presence of the California Gull in the northern and central part of Utah.

During the past twenty-five years there has been an increase of numbers of *Larus californicus* inhabiting Utah Lake and nesting on Rock Island.

About the time the majority of the California Gulls have migrated to the Pacific Coast (late September), the Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis* comes to Utah Valley. These birds are common residents throughout the winter. They are often mistaken for the California Gull which is a larger bird. There are, however, a few California Gulls which remain all winter but they are only seen as occasional specimens.

During the summer months it is not unusual to see a specimen or two of the Franklin Gull, *Larus pipixcan*, resting on the waters of the lake. The writer has never seen more than three specimens in one group at a time, and the most usual observation is a single specimen. These birds have been alone and have not been associated with other species of gulls or other birds. No doubt the occasional visitor to Utah Lake is one of the resident forms from Salt Lake Valley where they are known to nest.

Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*, was collected first at Provo Bay near Utah Lake on May 13, 1933 by C. L. Hayward and D. E. Johnson. Another specimen was collected on October 21, 1934 at Utah Lake by Mr. D. E. Johnson.

A single adult male specimen of the Glaucous Gull, *Larus hyperboreus*, was collected by Mr. D. E. Johnson on March 3, 1934. This bird was one of two birds of the same species which Mr. Johnson had under observation between February 22 and March 14, 1934.

I am indebted to Dr. Clarence Cottam of the Fish & Wild Life Service, Washington, D. C. for the verification of the Herring Gull. According to Dr. Cottam, the bird is a rare visitor to Utah and has not been noticed until the last few years.—D. Elden Beck, B. Y. U.